EARTH FIRST!

Spring Equinox, March 20, 1981
Volume 1 Number 4

Were you there when they built Glen Canyon Damn?
Were you there when they built Glen Canyon Damn?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble
Were you there when they built Glen Canyon Damn?

Were you there when they killed this river dead?
Were you there when they killed this rio dead?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble
Were you there when they killed the Colorado dead?

Spirit come and tear this dam away
Spirit come and take this dam away
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble
Spirit come and blow this dam away

People stand and roll away these stones
People stand and roll away these stones
Oh, you know this Earth is going to tremble, tremble
People stand and roll away these stones

Bart Koehler

WERE YOU THERE WHEN WE CRACKED GLEN CANYON DAMN?

At 9:40 on the morning of the first full day of Spring, March 21, six EARTH FIRST!ers drove to a locked gate on the western access road of Glen Canyon Damn near Page, Arizona. A 100 lb. bundle was muscled over the fence and four men and one woman carried it 400 yards out to the center of the dam as the remaining commando drove away the vehicle. When the attack team moved out onto the dam they saw some 75 EARTH FIRST! members watching from the walkway of the Colorado River bridge just downstream. The team of EARTH FIRST!ers from Wyoming, New Mexico, and Montana reached the center of the dam and placed their bundle on the lip of the downstream side. A huge cheer rose up from those on the bridge and was answered by cries of "EARTH FIRST!" from the wilderness berserkers on the dam. Two ropes were tied to a grill bolted to the top of the dam and then accompanied by shouts of "Free the Colorado!", 300 feet of black plastic tapered from 12 to 2 feet in width and held together by 700 feet of rope and 1000 feet of duct tape cascaded smoothly down the 500 foot tall face of the dam, creating the impression of a crack growing down the concrete monster. The EARTH FIRST!ers on the bridge held signs proclaiming "Damn Watt, Not Rivers", "Let it Flow", "Wilderness is American", and "Bomb Iran". The eco-pranksters on the dam disappeared and soon joined the crowd in the parking lot of the Damn Visitor Center to hear Ed Abbey speak about the rape of the West and the need to take strong actions to cleanse the Earth and free the rivers.

Abbey spoke of the "green and living wilderness" that was Glen Canyon only 19 years ago; of the drowned canyons once teeming with wildlife

and filled with archaeological treasures. "And they took it away from us. The politicians of Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado, in cahoots with the land developers, city developers, industrial developers of the Southwest, stole this treasure from us in order to pursue and promote their crackpot ideology of growth, profit and power -- growth for the sake of power, power for the sake of growth."

Speaking toward the future of environmental actions, Abbey offered this advice -- "Oppose. Oppose the destruction of our homeland by these alien forces from Houston, Tokyo, Manhattan, Washington, DC, and the Pentagon. And if opposition is not enough, we must resist. And if resistance is not enough, then subvert."

Abbey also launched a nation-wide EARTH FIRST! petition campaign to dismantle Glen Canyon Damn. He said, "We want immediate results. We want to see Glen Canyon alive and beautiful, the river free and flowing, in our lifetimes. To those: the impatient among you; I say, sign our petition to Congress demanding the prompt dismantling of Glen Canyon Dam."

Just as Abbey finished, Park Service Police and Coconino County Sherrif's Officers arrived on the scene and hustled Dave Foreman and Howie Wolke away for questioning. While the police tried to disperse the crowd, legendary Outlaw Country/Western singer Johnny Sagebrush materialized and led the group in singing "Watt Went A'Courtin'", "Were You There When They Built Glen Canyon Damn?", and other traditional and original compositions.

After the officers were introduced to Ed Abbey, tensions eased and the sing-a-long continued. The crowd then posed for pictures by FBI agents, sang "This Land Is Your Land" and returned to their campsite at Lone Rock.

EARTH FIRST! has arrived.

Watt went a'courtin' he did ride, uh huh
Watt went a'courtin' he did ride, uh huh
Watt went a'courtin' he did ride
Tear up all the countryside, uh huh uh huh uh huh

Watt went a'lookin' for some coal, uh huh
Watt went a'lookin' for some coal, uh huh
Watt went a'lookin' for some coal
Take this country's heart and soul, uh huh uh huh uh huh

Watt said I'm gonna make things nice, uh huh
Watt said I'm gonna make things nice, uh huh
Watt said I'm gonna make things nice
But your ass we'll sacrifice, uh huh uh huh uh huh

I know I can't take no more, uh huh
I know I can't take no more, uh huh
I know I can't take no more
Time to kick that _____ out the door, uh huh uh huh uh huh

Bart Koehler

$PECIAL # EF! NEEDS MONEY!! # # PLEASE SEND TO SUSAN!

Thanks to all those who helped make our Spring Equinox Celebration the success it was! In order to protect the guilty, names will not be mentioned of those who built and conceived the crack, placed it on the dam, or otherwise helped. Thanks also to all of you who attended -- from as far away as San Francisco, Dallas, Montana, and Denver. Our regrets to those were kept from attending by the storm that blew in Thursday night. Special thanks, of course, to Cactus Ed, hisself.

* * * * * * * * SPECIAL REQUEST * * * * * * * *

If you took slides of the Cracking of the Damn, please send copies or originals to Dave Foreman. Please indicate if you want your originals returned. Slides will be used in developing an EARTH FIRST! slide show. Also, film footage was shot of the entire episode and an 8 minute movie is being made for EF!. Thanks to Hurricane for this.

* * * * * * ANOTHER SPECIAL REQUEST * * * * * *

If you see any newspaper reports of the Cracking of the Damn, please send clippings to Dave Foreman. Good press coverage on the Damn Cracking has already appeared in Rocky Mountain News, Denver Post, and the Arizona Republic.

PHOTOS OF THE CRACKING OF THE DAM

8 x 10 black and white prints of the Spring Equinox Celebration are available from EF! as a public service and fundraising effort. Indicate the picture(s) you want and send $2.50 apiece to Dave Foreman. Photos available are:

1. Damn and Crack from bridge
2. Ed Abbey speaking to the crowd
3. Johnny Sagebrush singing
4. Foreman and Wolke being questioned by police
5. Police being introduced to Ed Abbey

DRAIN LAKE FOUL PETITION

Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter is a copy of our petition calling on Congress to dismantle Glen Canyon Damn and drain Lake Foul. Print up additional copies of the petition, give 'em to other people, get 'em signed, and send them in! We hope to find a sympathetic member of Congress who will accept the petitions on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, DC, where we will stage a demonstration against the pork barrel later this year. Please help! We want thousands of signatures!

WANT AD: One dozen attractive, affectionate, hard-drinking women to join in a group marriage with two lovable, broken-down buckaroos. Contact Bart Koehler or Dave Foreman.

No: there seems no escape from our difficulties until the industrial system breaks down for some reason or other, as it nearly did in Europe during the Second World War; and nature reasserts herself with grass and trees among the ruins.

Robert Graves, The White Goddess

EARTH FIRST!ers are the Wobblies of the environmental movement.

Harry Orchard

FOURTH OF JULY ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS IN MOAB, UTAH

As reported in the Yule issue of the newsletter, EARTH FIRST! is planning her 2nd annual Round River Rendezvous for the 4th of July near Moab, Utah. It was in Moab last 4th, you'll remember, that the yahoos of the Grand County Commission sent a flag-flying county bulldozer into a BLM Wilderness Study Area to rip it up. Rumor has it that they plan the same good ol' boy celebration this 4th. Of course now that the King Rat Sagebrusher of them all, Rape'n'Watt, is Secretary of the Interior, the good burghers of Moab may not feel it necessary to break the law. Regardless, EF! will rendezvous near Moab on the 4th and either confront the Grand County bulldozer with our own American flags or rehabilitate the scarred area from last year. Details will be forthcoming but help is needed to plan and organize this most important EF! gathering. Contact Dave Foreman if you would like to help. Ideas, workers, carpool coordinators, publicizers, locals to find a campsite, etc. are all needed. Also be sure to mark the 4th on your calendar and plan to attend. It will be mythological! Tell others about it. Let's turn out 205 for the Rendezvous!

EARTH FIRST! is the Country Outlaw of the environmental movement.

Johnny Sagebrush, legendary outlaw country singer

EARTH FIRST! NOTES: There was a detailed article on EF! in the March 29 Rocky Mountain News. Good articles on Rape'n'Watt in the March/April Rocky Mountain Magazine and the March Progressive. Also a letter on Eco-Violence by Dave Foreman in a recent issue of New Age. Ralph Monroe, another former Sierra Club activist gone bad and reportedly of Cannery Row, California, has been added to the Circle of EARTH FIRST!.

WANT AD: Printing/mailing coordinator for EF! Newsletter. Someone in a large town or city to take camera ready newsletter copy to a cheap printer and then mail out the newsletter on labels (labels and camera ready copy provided by Editor). Contact Susan Morgan. HELP!!!

EARTH FIRST! MEDIA LIST BEING DEVELOPED

In order to blow her own horn more effectively, EF! is developing a media mailing list to use with press releases, etc. Please send names, addresses, and phone numbers of good media contacts (newspapers, radio, magazines, TV, alternative media, etc. -- including NY Times, LA Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, Time, ABC, CBS, NBC) to Dave Foreman or Susan Morgan. We also would like for someone in EF! to take on the responsibility of coordinating media contacts and relations. If you are interested please contact Dave or Susan.

Q: How much energy does it take to fuck up the environment?
A: One Watt.
Q: How much energy does it take to save the environment?
A: One Kill-a-Watt.

HOW TO MAKE GLEN CANYON DAM INTO FLOYD DOMINY RAPID (rated 9)

The Spring Equinox bash should be some fun. I will not attend. I wouldn't camp on the shores of Lake Powell if you offered a quarter section in downtown San Francisco. Nope. I am very interested in what happens at these doin's, though. Enclosed is a piece of intelligence which was shared with me by a colorful gent who apologized to me, while drinking MY whiskey, for having a hand in the building of Glen Canyon Damn. You may want to pass this information to those who are dedicated to the dismantling of dams ...

> The west abutment is set in an inadequate key way.
> The cutting of key way was stopped when it was realized that the slot had entered a fault in the sandstone.
> Hence! The dam is anchored in a shortened key way which ends in a fault.
> If...one wanted to remove the dam, a good way would be to blow the sandstone at the west abutment. Nature and water pressure will do the rest.

Raggedy ass earth types can (and should) take heed.

-- L. Crossfox

ECO-ACTIVISTS STRIKE IN THE SAN JUANS

Local gonzo rangers of the Monkeywrench variety lept to their saddles to alert the citizenry of San Miguel Co., Colorado, to an insidious killer lurking undetected in the San Juan Mts: radiation from old mine sites in the Vanadium mineral belt. Even low level exposure to highly radioactive solid particles call radon progeny from Radon 222 gas can lodge in the lungs of the unwary who prowl the old tailings piles and ramshackle mine buildings and precipitate cancers that don't show up for ten to twenty years. So, alert to their over-riding duty as citizens of the Earth, our anonymous eco-activists took ink to silk-screen and spraypainted the ominous radiation hazard symbol at publicly accessible sites throughout the county. Tourists beware.

-- Art Goodtimes

Dear Susan
The Earth First! full-moon, vernal-equinox, and imminent-removal-of-Glen-Canyon-Damn celebration was a truly great event; however, it could have been a real blast ...!

Sid Hart, Hite, Utah

Dear Susan
Count on the cooperation and agitation of The Striders, obviously a progenitor of Earth First!. We are totally committed to the principle of Free Enterprise in Advocacy of Right -- our version of Right! Call us Right Wing, Left Wing, whatever you want -- but "they" had better not cross us or we'll cut their wings down to bloody stumps! A Strider slogan is "Not blind opposition, but raised-hackle, red-eyed, slobber-jawed, bare-fanged attack on progress." Striders meet on streetcorners, in the halls of Congress, in front of high altars and in dens of low iniquity; sometimes we don't even know when we meet. There were

Striders at Glen Canyon at the Spring Equinox.

Our moderate, above-ground image may appear to be similar to EF!. However, we do have something that EF! does not have -- our militant underground arm -- The Forecasters. A Forecaster motto is "Go Ahead -- Tread On Me AND DIE!" (It was a Forecaster in the Utah Penitentiary who caused the recent electrical blackout affecting several western states. It was a good show of things to come.)

ARAGORN

But sometimes at night, when I hear the wind
I wish I was crazy again

-- sung by Johnny Cash & Waylon Jennings

RENEWED RAPE OF GRAND CANYON

The Water and Power Resources Service (WPRS), formerly Bureau of Wreck-the-Nation, is busy again -- this time it's a peaking power project involving expansion of power facilities at Glen Canyon Damn. Under the new study either a 125mw or 250 mw addition will be constructed utilizing diversion tubes, increasing the maximum releases to surges of 36,500 or 40,000 cfs respectively. Under this proposal, there would be higher peak surges and longer periods of extremely low water -- perhaps 1000 cfs or less. Many rapids are virtually "unrunnable" at this level. It is conceivable that this project could effectively end river running in Grand Canyon. Additionally there will be increased erosion of the already heavily damaged beaches in the canyon and harm to indigenous fish, riparian vegetation, and mammals.

WPRS has been "soliciting" information and recommendations as to feasibility, impacts, and "benefits" of the proposed expansion project. Recommendations from four study teams will be made to a WPRS planning team this April and public hearings will also be held in April in Page, Flagstaff, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, and Southern California. If WPRS goes ahead, an environmental statement would be ready for public comment in early 1983. So-called "clean" and "cheap" hydroelectric projects have taken a high priority in the new administration. Comments and letters are <u>urgently</u> needed to stop this project. Please send comments and get others to do the same to:

John Brown, Projects Manager
Water and Power Resources Service
Box 640
Durango, CO 81301

Marv Jensen
River Management Unit, NPS
Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

We all love our Canyon, and now again, it's up to us to protect her ...
Walk, and float, in Beauty
Olo K. Bob, Flagstaff

IMPEACH REAGAN!

EARTH FIRST! endorses the immediate impeachment of President Ronald Reagan. The Declaration of Independence sets forth the inalienability of each citizen's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We believe that none of these are possible on a polluted planet devoid of wilderness and its natural diversity of living things. The Presi-

dent has, in the past, made numerous rhetorical statements against environmental protection. Furthermore with the recent appointments of James Rape'n'Run Watt and John Cut'emDown Crowell to high cabinet posts, we believe that Ronnie Ray Guns is very likely guilty of conspiracy to violate the Declaration of Independence. He should, therefore, immediately be impeached.

ANOTHER FRIGGIN' LETTER APPEAL

I realize that this is generally not our style but this appeal is probably perverse enough to be acceptable to most EARTH FIRST! members. While others are begging the Ray Gun Administration not to axe their pet projects, we should get specific in pointing out exactly what boondoggles should be violenced. National environmental groups are making suggestions but these will probably have little impact because the geeks in the Administration know they aren't coming from their friends and because there is no grassroots mobilization (most liberals are still sitting on their hands in stunned disbelief). I won't indulge in the usual drivel telling you exactly what to write. You're too smart for that, otherwise you wouldn't be in EARTH FIRST! Suffice it to say that your most hated water projects are vulnerable. Likewise appropriations for predator control, timber harvest, range improvements, etc. Maybe we can even put a bug in the Administration's ear about having someone introduce legislation raising grazing fees to fair market value. After all, it is their ideology.

Direct your letters to: Mr. David Stockman, Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20503

He's still an energetic, horny, young zealot even after several years in DC and two months in the Administration and he might even take up the challenge to practice what he preaches. Then again this might just be more masterbatory activity, but then that's fun too.

-- Don Schwarzenegger

EARTH FIRST! is an informal group of Earth radicals who believe in militant actions and courageous positions in defense of Earth and Her diversity of wilderness life. EARTH FIRST! has no officers, no constitution or bylaws; we are not incorporated and contributions are not tax deductible. If you like what you see, you are invited to jump into bed with us (or at least be on our mailing list). Our Newsletter is published 8 times a year on the Sabbats. There are no required membership dues but we do encourage you to kick in $10 or more to the kitty (stamps and printing do cost, and then there's beer for Koehler). Our mailing list is kept entirely secret and the newsletter is not marked with EARTH FIRST! on the outside (in case the FBI has a stakeout on your mailbox). You may use an assumed name. (We may have to have a contest for the most bizarre phony names soon!) Contributions are welcomed by the Newsletter (apologies to all of you who did not get your piece printed this time or were edited -- cruelly, no doubt). (It's not <u>my</u> fault! Foreman edited this newsletter. - Susan) To communicate with EF! on the newsletter or to send $: Susan Morgan PO Box 536 Breckenridge, CO 80424 (303)453-2669. To communicate with EF! on issues: Dave Foreman 1802 Sun Ct Rio Rancho, NM 87124 (505)898-5468

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FIRST CLASS